

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01903 190611Z

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ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 USIA-15

/055 W

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R 190541Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5163

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS KUWAIT 1903

DEPT PASS USDA

ATHENS FOR RTDO

ABU DHABI ALSO FOR DUBAI

JIDDA ALSO FOR RIYADH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAGR KU

SUBJECT: USDA FOOD EXHIBIT APRIL 12-15, 1976

1. AMERICAN FOOD EXHIBIT HELD HERE APRIL 12*65 WAS A SUCCESS.
ON SITE AND PROJECTED SALES AND NUMBER OF BUSINESS VISITORS WERE
CLOSE TO PRE-SHOW PREDICTIONS AND AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS AND FUTURE
SALES PROSPECTS APPEAR VERY ENCOURAGING. PARTICIPANTS IN SHOW
REPORTED ON-SITE SALES TOTALLING \$542,000. IN ADDITION WE HEARD
RUMOR THAT PILLSBURY SALES TOTALLED \$1.3 MILLION, ALTHOUGH COMPANY
REP DID NOT RPT NOT REPORT HIS SALES DIRECTLY TO US. FYI

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01903 190611Z

SHEPPARD WILL PHONE REPS AFTER HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. END FYI.

IN ADDITION TO DIRECT SALES, COMPANIES PROJECT SALES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1976 OF \$4,639,000.

2. NUMBER OF BUSINESS REPS ATTENDING SHOW, WHICH WAS LIMITED TO TRADE, WAS 140 FROM ABOUT A DOZEN COUNTRIES INCLUDING INDIA AND NIGERIA. THESE INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTED 105 FOREIGN BUSINESS COMPANIES/GROUPS. OF THE INDIVIDUALS ATTENDING 105 WERE FROM KUWAIT, 11 FROM SAUDI ARABIA, 5 FROM BAHRAIN, 2 FROM IRAN, 2 FROM INDIA, AND ONE EACH FROM DUBAI, OMAN AND LEBANON AND 10 FROM SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES. THOUGH NUMBERS WERE SMALL, WE FEEL THAT WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN REACHING KEY FOOD TRADERS.

3. DESPITE VARIETY OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS AND TIGHTNESS OF HOTEL ROOMS, SHOW PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. SHOW WAS OPENED BY KUWAIT MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND IT CLOSED ON SCHEDULE APRIL 15 WITH SPACE CLEARED AS AGREED IN CONTRACT. PARTICIPANTS PROMISED TO SUBMIT REPORTS TO USDA/FAS EXPRESSING VIEWPOINTS. EXTRA EXHIBIT CATALOGUES AND NAMES OF FOREIGN VISITORS TO BE MAILED TO POSTS IN SOURCE COUNTRIES. COPY OF LATTER LIST WILL ALSO BE TRANSMITTED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS. SHEPPARD WILL PREPARE FULL REPORT ON SHOW WHICH WILL BE MAILED TO REGIONAL POSTS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: FOOD SHOW REPRESENTS MOST AMBITIOUS TRADE PROMOTION EXHIBITION MOUNTED HERE IN LAST SIX YEARS. SMOOTH FUNCTIONING WAS RESULT CAREFUL PLANNING HERE AND IN WASHINGTON, ASSISTANCE OF CERTAIN LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO CLEARANCE OF GOODS FROM CUSTOMS, AND GOOD TEAMWORK BETWEEN COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL SERVICES OFFICES IN EMBASSY. SHEPPARD'S PRESENCE SEVERAL WEEKS BEFORE SHOW BEGAN AS WELL AS DURING AND AFTER SHOW WAS ESSENTIAL TO ITS SUCCESS.
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